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Combined Arms Center

Army Renews Project Warrior Program

By Mike Casey

Fort Leavenworth, Kan. -- The Army is restarting a program to pass on insights and knowledge from the Combat Training Centers to benefit the U.S. Training and Doctrine Command Centers of Excellence and the Force.

In May, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno announced the re-establishment of Project Warrior to help the Army transition from a force focused on counterinsurgency operations to a smaller, more versatile one ready for a wide range of missions. Odierno said Project Warrior will assist in the transition by producing agile, adaptive leaders.

Project Warrior calls for Captains to serve two years as an Observer-Coach-Trainer (OCT) at a Maneuver Combat Training Center (MCTC), followed by two years as a Small Group Instructor (SGI) at a TRADOC Center of Excellence (CoE).

"My intent in reinstituting Project Warrior is to infuse observations, insights, and lessons gained from multiple MCTC Decisive Action rotations against hybrid threats, back into the Force through the TRADOC CoEs," Odierno said.

Originally, the Army introduced Project Warrior in 1989 as Vietnam War veterans retired, depleting the force of combat-experienced Soldiers. To fill the void, Project Warrior sent participants to the MCTCs, which provide experience that is the closest to actual combat.

Operational requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan prompted the Army to suspend the program. The re-established Project Warrior will infuse the force with the experiences Captain OCTs gain from multiple MCTC rotations. The MCTCs are transforming to Decisive Action training that entails simultaneous offensive, defensive and stability tasks against hybrid threats.

To succeed, Project Warrior must attract the right leaders. Project Warrior officers should rank in the top 10 percent and show potential to command a battalion and perhaps a brigade.

"We're looking for our best and most talented Captains," said Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center- Training, or CAC-T, at Fort Leavenworth.

"At the MCTCs, they'll have the opportunity to observe multiple unit rotations. Then they'll take the skills, knowledge and lessons they learn to train our future company commanders and staff officers at the Centers of Excellence."

"It's a great leader development program for the Army, the Project Warrior participants, and for the Captains whom the Project Warrior officers will instruct at the proponent schools," he said.

Project Warrior is open to officers in: Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery, Air Defense, Aviation, Engineer, Signal, Military Police, Military Intelligence, Chemical, Logistics and Medical Service.



Project Warrior participants must complete key-development qualification assignments and have a minimum of three years at the Company/Battalion/Brigade levels. Officers can volunteer for Project Warrior, but must be endorsed by their battalion or brigade commander.

HRC Branch/Career Managers review each candidate's file to assess quality and to ensure participation does not disadvantage the candidate's professional development timeline.

The Army plans a phased implementation:

- By June 2013, the Army will identify and select Captains for OCT assignments.
- By December 2013, the Army will screen and select officers, currently serving as OCTs, for Project Warrior and follow-on assignments for summer 2014 as SGIs at TRADOC CoEs.
- By fiscal year 2016, the goal is to have 50 percent of Project Warrior officers teaching as SGIs and 100 percent by fiscal year 2017.

At end state, Project Warrior will have 66 officers serving at the MCTCs and another 66 serving as SGIs at various CoEs. The MCTCs are the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

HQDA G-3/5/7 will serve as the program's lead agent for policy, while HQDA G-1 will serve as the lead agent for personnel management.

CAC-T manages Army training support and training development, and provides training and leader development programs and products to support Army readiness. One of its subordinate organizations is the Combat Training Center, or CTC, Directorate, which facilitates validation, administration and integration of the CTC Program, and has been the lead to reinvigorate the Project Warrior Program.

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Bayonet & Saber

American Soldier Wins Award at UK Academy

By Nick Duke

Once every four months, an Officer Candidate School graduate is selected to attend Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom as part of an exchange program between the U.K. and U.S.

The most recent American Sandhurst graduate, 2nd Lt. Anwar Ross, completed the course in April and was presented with the Overseas Sword after being selected as the top overseas cadet.

Ross has since returned to the U.S., and is currently enrolled in the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course as part of A Company, 11th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 199th Infantry Brigade.

Now that he has completed the training at Sandhurst, Ross said his experiences there are likely to serve him well as he continues his military career.

"The bonds and relationships I was able to form while over there will be nothing but beneficial to the U.S. military, and my personal contributions to my Soldiers," Ross said. "I won't only have the expertise and training that I've been endowed with from U.S. military training, but also a whole new set of tools that I can pull out of my bag to use for any situation that may arise in the future."

Ross first became aware of the opportunity to attend Sandhurst near the end of his time in OCS. He decided to pursue the spot in the exchange program, and was selected after passing a series of evaluations and interviews.

Ross arrived at Sandhurst in May 2012, and had to adapt to the British military's way of operating in order to have success.

One of the biggest differences, Ross said, was the increased number of social events he had to attend while at Sandhurst.

"There's quite a bit more events, in terms of balls and dinner evenings that I had to attend," he said.

"It wasn't just to build camaraderie within the unit, but it was an assessment to see how you interacted and engaged in that social setting."

While Ross had to adjust to the British way of life, his fellow cadets were adjusting to being a part of the military.

"About 90 percent of the people arriving at Sandhurst were new to the military, whereas I'd already gone through basic training and OCS, so some of those common things that seemed part and parcel of every day life for me were things that the other guys had to learn from the get go," Ross said. "I have to say I was rather impressed with how quickly they picked up on things."



Ross and his fellow cadets went through 10 months of training split across three terms. At the end of each term, the Sovereign's Parade is held, which is an event held to mark the passing out of cadets who have completed the commissioning course.

Cadets who have completed their first term of instruction start at the back of the parade, and are moved forward at the conclusion of each term.

When it came time for Ross' class to be at the front of the parade, Ross found himself one step ahead of the rest of his class, as award winners are honored with a spot at the very front.

"Being in the first rank and being able to see the parade and being able to see everybody in the bleachers up front and personal was a sign of achievement after a year that had been long and arduous, yet still fun-filled," Ross said. "To not only be in the front rank with all of my senior class members, but to be one tier forward as part of the three prize winners just gave me a very significant feeling of achievement. I was just happy that I could represent my country in that way."

At the end of his time at Sandhurst, Ross said his biggest takeaway was his increased sense of confidence.

"I think it's enriched my personal confidence in my abilities," Ross said. "There were some very trying and testing exercises that we took part in while I was in the UK. If you're not sure of yourself when you go into those things, you're certainly sure of yourself when you come out of them. A year of training with some very intelligent and capable individuals has reassured me of what I do know, and has pointed out some things that I didn't know, and I was able to polish those things up and refine them so that I can be the best Soldier I can be."

Even though Ross started IBOLC a little over two weeks ago, most of his personal belongings are still in transit from the U.K.

One item he does have, however, is the Overseas Sword.

"The one thing that I brought with me on the plane and haven't let leave my sight since is the sword," Ross said.

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Army.mil

Cadets Find Opportunities through Reserve Service

By Steve Arel and Vickey Mouze

FORT KNOX, Ky. -- When Christopher Banks joined ROTC at the University of Virginia, his goal was to earn an active duty slot once he commissioned. But the more he thought about serving the nation and the opportunities his personal and professional development through the program could unlock, he wondered why he couldn't pursue careers both in and out of uniform.

So he opted to be detailed into the Army Reserve, placing him among 1,500 recent commissionees this year who chose to serve in a Reserve component versus active duty.

"I wanted to get my civilian career started as soon as possible," said Banks, who commissions this month.

Many Cadets seek to serve on active duty. Over the years, being assessed into the Reserve component has carried with it something of a stigma. Those who aren't given an active duty slot sometimes equate their overall ROTC performance as less-than-stellar.

That, of course, isn't the case, as evidenced by legions of commissionees who have built successful military and civilian careers.

There are many avenues Cadets travel to find sound employment. They network. They market themselves. They also tap into the Army's Partnership for Youth Success program, commonly known as PaYS. The program doesn't guarantee employment, but enables nearly 500 businesses across the country, including a number of Fortune 500 companies, to communicate with and interview prospective talent being developed in ROTC.

"Reserve components produce general officers and equally important, the Reserve and National Guard need top-notch second lieutenants," said Lt. Col. Tao, the professor of military science at Santa Clara University in California. "The amount of opportunities existing in the reserve component sometimes exceeds those on active duty.

"In my three years as a PMS, two of my No. 1 (senior) Cadets who ranked in the top 150 in the nation have chosen to go into the Reserve as a lawyer and into the Minnesota National Guard as an infantry officer. It's not what component you get that will make you successful in the Army but how hard you work once you get into it that will be most important."

A number of Cadets heading to a Reserve status say not being on active duty opens up an array of opportunities beyond the military.

Using the leadership skills he honed at the University of Virginia, Banks successfully touted himself as someone who could be an asset to a civilian company. The Italian language and literature major landed a position as an account specialist with Choice Hotels in Washington, D.C.



His role, which begins in June, will be to serve as a liaison, coordinating events between corporate clients and Choice properties in the nation's capital. In December, Banks' focus shifts to the Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he will spend four months training as a military intelligence officer.

Banks, who originally was supposed to attend BOLC until he received a job offer, said management at Choice understands his obligation to the Army and are supportive of his service.

"I made it clear at the beginning that I have this obligation," Banks said. "They know I wanted to serve my country."

Starting with Choice before schooling allows Banks to get his footing with the company, he said. Besides, winter tends to be a slower time of year for the hotel industry, and he expects to be back as business picks up.

As for the military, serving as a Reserve officer, Banks said, makes him more versatile.

"You're making yourself a well-rounded individual by pursuing two careers and a wanted person by companies that know you have certain qualities others applying won't have," he said. "The training we get is invaluable. That makes us better in the Army and in our civilian careers."

His advice to other Cadets being assessed into a Reserve component: Weigh your options, and don't be discouraged.

"Be aware there are other pathways to get to where you want to go," Banks said. "My ROTC experience set me up for success. No question."

Second Lt. Brandy Warner, who commissioned earlier in May, also plans to balance two careers at the same time -- one as a future aviator with the Massachusetts Army National Guard and the other as a project engineer with Ensign Bickford Aerospace and Defense Company in Simsbury, Conn.

Warner believes highlighting her ROTC skills during her interview at Ensign Bickford sold the company on her potential.

"I brought up many of these (leadership and management) qualities. With each quality, they were more and more impressed."

Like Banks, Warner planned to go active duty, but her goal changed after learning about internship opportunities at Ensign Bickford.

"After a year of interning, I had a feeling that there was a good chance of getting a full-time civilian job at Ensign Bickford," she said. "As time progressed, the reality of joining the MAARNG became more and more evident."

"I had a six-month plan on accepting a job offer at Ensign Bickford, I was planning a wedding, I was drilling with my unit as a Simultaneous Membership Program Cadet and I loved it. It really seemed that one thing after another fell into place."



She said Cadets need to be honest with both sides concerning expectations when planning a dual career. By being upfront about her military career with Ensign Bickford and vice versa, she has the freedom to work full-time, take a leave of absence when she starts flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., in March 2014, and then return to Ensign Bickford. While she is excited to have a way to balance both careers, she knows doing each successfully will take planning and time management, two skills she learned in ROTC.

Jack Schneeman, a finance major at Santa Clara University, also wants to work full-time after he completes an internship. Once he commissions as an infantry officer in mid-June, he'll intern at Dougherty and Company, a boutique investment bank firm in Minneapolis. He'll shadow one of the firm's senior vice presidents through the summer.

After infantry BOLC and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., later this year, he hopes to return to Dougherty as full-time analyst. He'll also serve as an infantry officer with the Minnesota Army National Guard.

When Schneeman started ROTC, he was adamant about going active duty. However, after a few years in Santa Clara's Leavey School of Business, he became passionate about pursuing a career in the private sector while simultaneously continuing to serve after ROTC.

Schneeman plans to pursue the entrepreneurial spirit that's found in Silicon Valley by starting his own business.

"Joining the Reserves or National Guard is still serving your country, and it's grateful to you," he said. "You will also have a lot more freedom in career choice, residence locations and can get competitive pay. The ROTC experience you've earned over the past four years helps make you desirable for an immense array of civilian positions. You'll able to find a position that fits your interests, and they will value your military and leadership experience."

Schneeman also recommends Cadets be proactive and seek help with resumes and applications while still at school. Reach out to all the employers you're interested in. Learn as much as you can about them as you prepare for interviews.

"Do not take your Reserve position lightly," he said. "Just because you weren't able to get the active duty slot you hoped for, you'll still be leading Soldiers at the end of the day. You owe it to them to give it your best."

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PilotOnline.com

Army's Training Is Music to These Grads' Ears

By Dianna Cahn

Read full story at: <http://hamptonroads.com/2013/05/armys-training-music-these-grads-ears>

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Stars and Stripes

Odierno: Don't Rule Out Ground Wars When Cutting Army Forces

By Chris Carroll

Read full story at: <http://www.stripes.com/odierno-don-t-rule-out-ground-wars-when-cutting-army-forces-1.223488>

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Washington Post

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By Steve Vogel and Lisa Rein

Read full story at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/pentagon-begins-notifying-workers-of-their-up-to-11-furlough-days/2013/05/29/0952ef48-c892-11e2-8da7-d274bc611a47_story.html

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